

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claim 18 and amend claims 8, 14, 17, 19, 20, 21, and 22 as follows:

1. (Original) A closing element assembly for providing closure to hooking elements within a knitting machine, said closing element assembly comprising:
  - a plurality of closing elements, each closing element having a butt end and a working end, said butt end defining at least one indentation along the length of same;
  - at least one plate for receipt in said at least one indentation, said plate defining closing element channels therein for receipt of a portion of said butt ends of said plurality of closing elements; and
  - said at least one plate securing said plurality of closing elements in proper position for cooperating with a plurality of hooking elements of compound needles for knitting.
2. (Original) A closing element assembly as in claim 1, wherein said closing element channels defined by said plate are grooves form by said plate.
3. (Original) A closing element assembly as in claim 1, wherein said closing element channels formed by said plate are grooves and slots formed by said plate.
4. (Original) A closing element assembly as in claim 1, wherein said closing element channels formed by said plate are slots formed by plate teeth.
5. (Original) A closing element assembly as in claim 1, wherein an adhesive substance is applied to said plate.
6. (Original) A closing element assembly as in claim 1, wherein an adhesive substance is applied to said butt end of said closing elements.

7. (Original) A closing element assembly as in claim 1, wherein an adhesive substance is applied to said butt end of said closing elements and said plate.

8. (Currently Amended) A closing element assembly ~~as in claim 1, wherein each of said closing elements defines~~ for providing closure to hooking elements within a knitting machine, said closing element assembly comprising:

a plurality of closing elements, each closing element having a butt end and a working end, said butt end defining an upper indentation and a lower indentation on opposing sides of said butt end;

at least one plate for receipt in at least one of said indentions of said closing elements, said plate defining closing element channels therein for receipt of a portion of said butt ends of said plurality of closing elements; and

said at least one plate securing said plurality of closing elements in proper position for cooperating with a plurality of hooking elements of compound needles for knitting, when said closing element assembly is placed within the knitting machine.

9. (Original) A closing element assembly as in claim 8, wherein an upper plate is receivable in said upper indentions formed in said butt ends of said plurality of closing elements and a lower plate is receivable in said lower indentions formed in said butt ends of said plurality of closing elements.

10. (Original) A closing element assembly as in claim 9, wherein said butt end of each closing element has two upper flanges forming said upper indentation and has two lower flanges forming said lower indentation.

11. (Original) A closing element assembly as in claim 9, wherein said upper and lower plates are press fit into said upper and lower indentions.

12. (Original) A closing element assembly as in claim 1, wherein said at least one plate is made of aluminum.

13. (Original) A closing element assembly as in claim 1, wherein said butt end of each closing element forms an aperture through said butt end.

14. (Original) A closing element assembly for providing closure to hooking elements of compound needles within a knitting machine, said closing element assembly comprising:

a plurality of closing elements, each closing element having a butt end and a working end, said butt end having an upper pair of opposing flanges forming an upper indentation on said butt end and a lower pair of opposing flanges forming a lower indentation on said butt end;

an upper plate defining slots on one side for receiving upper flanges of said butt ends nearest to said working ends of said closing elements, said upper plate carried in said upper indentions of said butt ends formed by said upper pairs of opposing flanges;

a lower plate defining slots on one side for receiving lower flanges of said butt ends nearest to said working ends of said closing elements, said lower plate carried in said lower indentions of said butt ends formed by said lower pairs of opposing flanges; and

said upper and lower plates securing said closing elements in proper alignment, spacing and angle for use with the hooking elements of said compound needles.

15. (Original) A closing element assembly as in claim 14, wherein an adhesive substance is applied to said plate.

16. (Original) A closing element assembly as in claim 14, wherein an adhesive substance is applied to said butt end of said closing elements.

17. (Original) A closing element assembly as in claim 14, wherein an adhesive substance is applied to said butt end of said closing elements and said plate.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A closing element ~~as in claim 18, further comprising~~  
for providing closure to a compound needle used in knitting, said closing element  
comprising:

a working end which interacts with a groove in said needle to close said needle  
during the warp knitting process;

a butt end integral to said working end, said butt end allowing for proper  
alignment and spacing of said working end; and

said butt end forming an upper pair of opposing flanges forming an upper indentation in said butt end, and a lower pair of opposing flanges forming a lower indentation in said butt end.

20. (Currently Amended) A closing element as in claim ~~48~~ 19, further comprising a rounded rear on an end of said butt end furthest from said working end.

21. (Currently Amended) A closing element as in claim ~~48~~ 19, wherein said butt end forms an aperture through said butt end.

22. (Currently Amended) A plate for use within a closing element assembly for securing proper positioning of closing elements in a knitting machine, said plate comprising;

a plate forming a plurality of closing element channels; and

each of said closing element channels formed by said plate allowing a closing element to be receivable into said closing element channel securing said closing element in proper alignment to create a closing element assembly for use within said knitting machine.

23. (Original) A plate as in claim 22, wherein said closing element channels are grooves formed by said plate.

24. (Original) A plate as in claim 22, wherein said closing element channels are slots formed by said plate.

25. (Original) A plate as in claim 22, wherein said closing element channels are slots and grooves formed by said plate.

26. (Original) A plate as in claim 22, wherein said plate is metal.

27. (Original) A plate as in claim 26, wherein said plate is aluminum.